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## NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS

### THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

WHEN the International Association of Academies held its first session, at Paris in 1900, nearly every country in Europe either had one or more general academies, embracing in their care the whole circle of the sciences, though usually divided into "philosophical-historical" and "mathematical-physical" sections, or else had separate academies for these two broad fields of investigation and study. In Great Britain, however, while all the physical sciences were amply represented by the Royal Society, there was no single body having a similar position in respect to what are commonly called the humanistic studies. Yet it was strongly desired that British interest in those studies should equally have its representation in the membership and work of the International Association of Academies, and out of this exigency arose the movement which led to the incorporation, in 1902, of the British Academy for the Promotion of Historical, Philosophical and Philological Studies. Since then, the British Academy, as it is commonly called, a body of eminent scholars, limited to one hundred in number, has endeavored to care for the general interests of such studies in Great Britain, after much the same manner as that in which the Royal Society cares for the interests of the physical sciences, though as yet with resources far less than those which two hundred and fifty-eight years of existence have brought to the Royal Society. In common language, the one represents science the other learning, and the British representation in the International Association of Academies was thereafter made up by action of both bodies.

The International Association of Academies did various useful things, of a sort which, either from their nature or their magnitude, called for co-operation of scientists and scholars of various countries. A typical illustration of its undertakings in the humanistic field would be the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, edited by an international committee, and contributed to by Arabists of all countries, and of which the first volume was published in parts from 1908 to 1913. While the war broke up this international academic association, nothing can destroy the need or desire for international co-operation in intellectual fields, and before the war was ended measures for

union were already in operation, but the new organization has come about in a quite different way. In the case of the physical sciences, the war brought about common consultations and common action in investigation to an extent far beyond anything known before. Each of the belligerent countries had organized a national research council, or something of the sort; but the problems important to warfare which they attacked were common to all, and the resulting inventions or discoveries were needed, and needed quickly, by all the allies alike. Upon the initiative of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, the national research councils of the allies united in forming, in 1918, the International Research Council, to which presently, after the armistice, the scientific academies of the neutral countries were admitted on equal terms, for the uniting of scientific effort, which was indispensable in war-time, is as desirable as it ever was in times of peace. The result is, that now the scientific academies of the allied and neutral countries, or the scientific sections of their general academies, are united in a representative international council which holds regular meetings and makes plans for common action upon common problems of science.

Though warfare had not compelled a similar international union of the representatives of learning in humanistic studies, the thought naturally arose, after the formation of this scientific organization, that there ought also to be some like body in which the representatives of history, economics, political and social science, archaeology, philology, and philosophy, should come together for common consultation and action. Accordingly, two of the academies in Paris, the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres and the Academy of the Moral and Political Sciences, united in calling a conference in May, 1919, which resulted in the formation of the International Union of Academies (Union Académique Internationale). The plan was cordially taken up, and the Union Académique Internationale ("UAI") is now a "going concern". It has already had one meeting in October, 1919, and will have another in May, 1920. The regular place of meeting will be the Palais des Académies at Brussels and the permanent secretariat will be established there. M. Émile Senart, of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, president of the Asiatic Society of Paris, distinguished in Indo-Chinese and Pali learning, was chosen as the first president. M. Théophile Homolle, of the same academy, director of the Bibliothèque Nationale, served as secretary at first, but in the permanent organization it is provided that the president, the two vice-presidents, the secretary, and the two adjunct secretaries shall all be from different countries.

The humanistic academies (or humanistic sections of general academies) of France, Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Italy, Greece, Poland, Russia, and Japan are all represented in the "UAI", each country having two delegates and two votes. The Spanish Academy of History, the Rumanian Academy, and those of Portugal and Finland and Czechoslovakia will soon join. That of Sweden, characteristically, "will be glad to join the union when it is possible to invite all the countries to participate in it", that is to say, whenever it votes to admit the German and Austrian academies. Naturally, some time must elapse before that can be brought about, though of course it must ultimately occur. Normally, science and learning are international elements in modern civilization and have a natural inclination to ignore national boundaries and proceed to do their part in drawing the world together. According to the constitution of the Union, a majority of three-fourths of all the votes of its members, in a secret ballot, is requisite for the admission of new members.

But now arose, for American well-wishers to the Union, a dilemma like that which confronted the British scholars in 1900; and it has been solved in a similar way, by the creation of a new organization representing the whole group of the humanistic studies. Everyone would wish that the United States should have a part in any such international organization. It would not be presumptuous to suppose that its scholars could be helpful in such an amphictyony, and in any case we ought to wish that America should bear its share of the expense of whatever international undertakings, in fields of learning, it is thought worth while to pursue. Indeed, no right-minded man could wish otherwise than that America, which has emerged from the Great War so much less damaged than other countries, so much the richest of all, should be moved to bear much more than its proportionate share of the world's expenditure for purposes of learning. But just as in 1900 Great Britain lacked any body representative in a general manner of the humanistic studies, and forming a complement to the Royal Society, so in America in 1919, though American science was amply represented by the National Academy of Sciences, American learning had no such general representative body.

The mode chosen for meeting the dilemma was characteristically different. On the whole, the sentiment of American scholars would not be in favor of the attempt to create a select academy, whether of forty immortals or of a hundred mortals, whose mortal quality might be only too clear to those who were not co-opted. In all

probability such a group could not be invested with sufficient prestige or power or material resources to perform great services to American learning. As an instrument for the union of forces, or for securing representation in an international union, we should prefer something more literally representative. Better than with any national academy of learned men, we are contented with the machinery by which we deal with such matters now, namely, by having, for each of the chief humanistic studies, or divisions of learning, a national society of specialists, not limited to small numbers, but embracing all who are strongly enough interested in the particular study to join the national society.

If then the United States was to be at all represented in the International Union of Academies, and many scholars desired that it should be, the best way to achieve it, in view of our actual existing form of organization, was to draw together these specialist societies into some form of loose federation for the purpose. This has now been brought about, chiefly through the efforts and organizing skill of Mr. Waldo G. Leland, secretary hitherto of the American Historical Association. On September 19, 1919, a conference of representatives of ten societies of the variety indicated (thirteen were invited) was held at Boston, at which a constitution for such a federation was formed. It provides for a body to be called the American Council of Learned Societies devoted to Humanistic Studies (American Council of Learned Societies, for short), which should be composed of two delegates from each of the national learned societies in the United States devoted to the advancement, by scientific methods, of the humanistic studies, and which should elect the two delegates to represent the United States in the UAI. With a little more leniency than was observed in 1787, it was provided that this constitution should go into effect when ratified by seven of the thirteen societies invited to be constituent; but nine of them have already accepted this constitution, mostly at annual meetings held at Christmas-time, and two more are expected to pass similar votes at annual or semi-annual meetings soon to be held.

Delegates having been at the same time appointed, the first meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies was held on February 14, in New York, at the rooms of the Institute of International Education, which for the present makes generous provision of quarters and of clerical assistance. Delegates from eleven societies were present—the American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Boston), the American Antiquarian Society, the American Philological Association, the

Archaeological Institute of America, the American Historical Association, the American Economic Association, the American Political Science Association, the American Sociological Society, the American Oriental Society, and the Modern Language Association of America. The American Historical Association was represented by Professor Charles H. Haskins, of Harvard University, and J. F. Jameson. Organization was effected as follows: Professor Haskins was made chairman; Professor John C. Rolfe, of the University of Pennsylvania, a Latinist, and one of the representatives of the American Philological Association, was chosen as vice-chairman; Professor George M. Whicher, of Hunter College, secretary of the Archaeological Institute of America, was made secretary. The executive committee consists of these three and of Professor Allyn A. Young, of Cornell University, and Professor Hiram Bingham, of Yale University, representatives respectively of the American Economic Association and of the American Antiquarian Society. To represent the United States at the approaching meeting of the UAI, the Council chose Professor James T. Shotwell, of Columbia University, and Mr. William H. Buckler, of Baltimore, archaeologist.

But what is there for such a council, or for an International Union of Academies, to do? It should be premised that, quite apart from international co-operation, the Council may find some modest fields of activity within the national boundaries of the United States. Content as we may be with the present organization of separate societies of specialists, there are some respects in which they may well be thought to work too much in isolation; there are ways in which they might well co-operate more largely, to the real benefit of learning in the United States. The twelve societies upon whose loose union the Council rests, themselves rest upon a total membership of more than 10,000, which ought to be no inconsiderable force in the promotion of learning, in any ways in which learning can be promoted by common action. But now as to international tasks. It is probable that the UAI, like the International Research Council or the International Association of Academies which existed before the war, will more often operate by way of consultation and advice, in forming projects the execution of which will be left, by partition of labor, to the scholars of individual nations, than by carrying out large tasks by machinery and means of its own. But of tasks which require, or are appropriate for, international co-operation there is no lack.

There are some undertakings in the field of scholarship which cannot well be left to one nation alone, lest the rights of other na-

tions in the matter be slighted or infringed. A capital instance is the matter of permits for excavation in the territory formerly belonging to the Ottoman Empire. Such permits have hitherto been marked by favoritism, interruption, and caprice. Now, it seems, excellent regulations framed by an international committee will be attached to the Turkish treaties and to the mandates of the mandatory powers, which will put the exploration of Western Asia on a just and rational basis, safeguarding the rights of excavating nations and of the new countries. Again, the UAI affords good means for the organization of national historical and philological congresses. Through it scholars can join to press upon their respective governments a more uniformly liberal policy regarding the dates to which diplomatic archives can be open for inspection, or can support the preparation of fuller and more uniform guides to archival material or works of reference in diplomatic or international history. Again, in many cases where it is just as well that each nation should do its own scholarly work for itself, there is advantage in having the forms of publication standardized by some international body. The best method of bringing down to date the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* would be for the scholars of each country that was embraced in the Roman Empire to publish whatever Latin inscriptions have been in recent decades found within its borders, yet a uniform mode of presentation, and so far as possible uniform volumes, should be arranged for by joint agreement, and executed under general supervision of a joint committee. Still closer co-operation would be appropriate in the case of a proposed general collection of early Christian inscriptions, or of those early inscriptions in Europe which are neither Greek nor Latin nor Semitic.

The UAI may also, if the means can be found, carry out large compilations of its own, for the service of the scholars of all nations—a general current bibliography of the humanistic sciences, perhaps, or cyclopaedias of certain sorts, like the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* already mentioned, or dictionaries of such languages as Arabic and Pali, or a modern edition of Du Cange. The American Council of Learned Societies might itself, conceivably, undertake such a project as that of a scholarly dictionary of American biography, a project long talked of. There is no lack of interesting projects, many of which have already been laid before the Union.

The amount which the Council or the UAI can achieve depends largely upon the amount of pecuniary support which can be secured. European academies have their funds, and may look to their governments for their increase. The American Council of Learned

Societies is provided, under its constitution, with a small annual revenue, for running expenses, supplied by the constituent societies. Each society contributes the modest sum of five cents a member, no society to pay less than \$25. This will yield \$600 or \$700. The American Historical Association, further, enters into the combination with the Andrew D. White Fund, a nest-egg of \$1000, at its disposal for purposes of international historical work approved by its representatives in the Council. Evidently, however, in order to do anything large, the Council will have to obtain money, from some one of the ten thousand members of its societies or from some other source. But at all events an interesting, and in some ways an inspiring, beginning has been already made.

J. F. J.

#### THE ARREST OF PROFESSORS FREDERICQ AND PIRENNE

In the *Nederlandsch Archievenblad*, XXVIII. 1, there has come to us an account, taken from the *Indépendance Belge*, of the means by which the arbitrary arrest, by German authority, of the two distinguished Belgian historians, Professors Paul Fredericq and Henri Pirenne of Ghent, was made known immediately to the outside world of scholars. We are sure that the following extract will be interesting, not only to the many friends of those two scholars who interested themselves in the American efforts to secure their release, but to medievalists and historical students generally, as showing how their simple arts can be put to practical use in an emergency. The allusions to M. Pirenne's children require no explanation, but it should be explained that "Paul le Beau" was the phrase by which the two archivists who figure in the correspondence were wont (with justice) to designate their friend Fredericq. It was through the action of Mr. Muller (the *molendinarius Ultrajectensis* indicated below) that the immediate appeal from the 179 Dutch academicians and professors to the Prussian Academy was organized, upon which followed the appeal of 100 American historical professors through our Department of State; and Mr. Mullér throughout the captivity of our two colleagues was the unwearied agent for all communication with them.

Le lendemain de l'arrestation de MM. Fredericq et Pirenne, Mme. Pirenne envoya un messager à un vieil ami de son mari, l'archiviste général du royaume, Cuvelier, pour qu'il prévint immédiatement son collègue, le célèbre archiviste d'Utrecht S. Muller, qui servait d'intermédiaire entre les fils Pirenne, au front, et la famille en Belgique. Mais

comment faire connaître en Hollande cette nouvelle, que les Allemands avaient tant d'intérêt à tenir cachée? M. Cuvelier eut recours au moyen le plus simple. Sur une carte postale, recommandée, il écrivit à M. Muller:

*Mon cher collègue :*

Puis-je vous demander de collationner le texte suivant dans la *Chronique d'Utrecht*, dont le manuscrit est conservé dans votre dépôt à l'année CMXV Idibus Martii (ancien style):

Hodie apprehenderunt Henricum, patrem parvi Petri, sociumque Paulum dictum Pulchrum et in partes que teutonica dicuntur Oostlant, missi sunt. Mater Jacobae Henricaequ molendinarium Ultrajectensem moneri petit.

Je crois, que Lamprecht—que vous avez consulté dans le temps—aurait pu nous édifier sur la lecture exacte, mais il est mort. Ne connaissez-vous pas l'archiviste de Crefeld [premier endroit de détention de M. Pirenne], qui doit posséder une copie plus moderne de ce texte? ou quelque autre académicien savant, qui saurait en démêler le sens?

Dans l'espoir, etc.

Quelques jours après M. Cuvelier reçut la réponse suivante:

*Mon cher collègue :*

J'ai consulté le manuscrit que vous me désignez; c'est le numéro 288 de l'inventaire sommaire. J'y trouve une notice, qui manque à votre texte et qui me semble intéressante:

Quibus statim nuntiatis in partibus inferioribus, magna ibi crevit emotio. Trajectenses imprimis operam dare conabantur. Molendinarium quidam, per confidentiam matris elatus, dixisse fertur, sperare ut eventus eum ea dignum monstraretur.

Le texte n'est pas très clair et d'une latinité peu édifiante; pourtant, le fragment ne me paraît pas sans quelque intérêt. Mater se rapporte peut-être à la mère qui est mentionnée dans votre texte. On m'a envoyé encore un manuscrit de La Haye, que j'ai étudié, mais il me paraît sans grand intérêt; ce qu'il dit ressemble fort à ce que j'avais déjà deviné en consultant mon manuscrit, qui est plus ancien.

Adieu, mon cher collègue; j'espère que votre édition de la chronique réussira. Nos amis se portent très bien et vous saluent.

(Signé) S. MULLER.

Les doctes Allemands n'avaient rien compris à la correspondance.